

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

AUGUST 9, 2006

PRESENT: Laura Sherman, Tim Olmsted, Lori Holden and Alternate Laurie Fiore

ABSENT: John Luginbuhl

STAFF

PRESENT: Reanna Goodreau, Recording Secretary

OTHERS

PRESENT: Jim Prichard, Board of Selectmen (BOS) Liaison

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Sherman called the Economic Development Commission meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Signage for the Ellington Farmer's Market at Arbor Park

Reanna Goodreau explained that she inventoried the size, height and number of signs at Arbor Park in order to determine what type of permanent signage for the Farmers' Market was permissible at the site. Ms. Goodreau noted that there are two signs at the park; one sign states the name of the park and the other sign states that the Ellington Community Scholarship Committee maintains a section of the park. She asked the Director of Public Works if the Committee still maintained that section and was told no. Ms. Goodreau will review the regulations and coordinate with the Zoning Enforcement Officer prior to the September meeting in order to determine what signage would be permitted.

CONTINUED TO THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2006 MEETING.

2. CEDAS: Camera Friendly Communities—Update

Chairman Sherman explained that she had sent Reanna Goodreau the link to the "Camera Friendly" website and noted that Ms. Goodreau supported the idea of gaining the support of the Board of Selectmen and other town departments prior to moving forward with this initiative. The commission discussed the value of the project in terms of effort and involvement in moving forward and the benefits to the community.

MOVED (OLMSTED), SECONDED (FIORE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REMOVE “CAMERA FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES” FROM THE AGENDA. THE MEMBERS AGREE THAT IT IS NOT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE EDC TO CONTINUE WITH THIS INITIATIVE DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE TOWN DOES NOT HAVE THE BEST PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES COMPARED TO OTHER LOCATIONS AND THIS INITIATIVE WILL BE TIME CONSUMING AND WILL NOT PRODUCE LARGE ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO THE TOWN. THE EDC BELIEVES ITS EFFORTS SHOULD BE FOCUSED ON INITIATIVES THAT WILL BE MORE BENEFICIAL TO THE TOWN’S ECONOMIC GROWTH.

3. Medical Business Subcommittee—Update

Commissioner Olmsted stated that when the age-restricted housing is built, there will be more potential to attract medical businesses.

CONTINUED TO THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2006 MEETING.

4. Tax Abatement Policies/Procedures—Update

Jim Prichard, BOS Liaison, stated that the Tax Abatement Review Committee is meeting next week to review the two pending tax abatement applications.

Reanna Goodreau stated that she sent the revised tax abatement policy and procedure to the Town Attorney for his review and comments. Ms. Goodreau reviewed the document with the members, reviewing corrections and noting that the Building Official submitted comments that had not yet been addressed. The commission agreed that definitions should be included in the document and request staff to coordinate with the Building Official, Assessor and Town Attorney. Ms. Goodreau stated that she hoped that this could be finished up at the September meeting so that it could be forwarded to the BOS for adoption.

Ms. Goodreau noted that if the pending applications are forwarded to the BOS, and the BOS supports the abatements, the BOS should ensure that the new policy and procedure are adopted prior to setting a Town Meeting. She explained that the policy and procedure include important changes from the state statutes.

CONTINUED TO THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2006 MEETING.

5. Review of the Economic Development Chapter of the Current Plan of Conservation & Development & Zoning Regulations

Chairman Sherman asked when the workshop for the economic development section of the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) update was scheduled for and was told that the Planning Department does not have a timeline or schedule. Chairman Sherman noted that the economic development section in the current plan is not very strong. Commissioner Fiore asked if the commission ever reviewed other towns’ plans and was told yes. Chairman Sherman explained that the commission had also attempted to create a Strategic Plan, but the Build-Out Analysis was in process and the commission gave a large portion of their budget to strengthen the project. Reanna Goodreau explained that the Build-Out Report is being used heavily during

the POCD update. The commission suggested obtaining POCDs from cohort communities and reviewing them for the next meeting.

CONTINUED TO THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2006 MEETING.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

MOVED (SHERMAN), SECONDED (HOLDEN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADD TO THE AGENDA: DISCUSSION OF INITIATIVES FOR THE EDC TO PURSUE IN ORDER TO INCREASE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

1. Discussion of Initiatives for the EDC to Pursue in Order to Increase Economic Development

Commissioner Fiore stated that she has reviewed economic development information on the MetroHartford Alliance's website and noted that Ellington's information does not seem as strong as other cohort communities, such as Suffield. She also stated that she received a brochure promoting East Granby and thought it would be a good idea if Ellington created a brochure. The commission discussed how they could best use their resources to promote the town. The members agreed that they should research MetroHartford Alliance's Economic Development Data & Information (EDDI) program and Connecticut Economic Resource Center's (CERC) SiteFinder program.

CONTINUED TO THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2006 MEETING.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. Approval of the June 14, 2006 Meeting Minutes

MOVED (OLMSTED), SECONDED (HOLDEN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE JUNE 14, 2006 MEETING MINUTES.

2. Correspondence:
 - a. CT Business, June 2006
 - b. CT Town & City, June 2006
 - c. The Regional Review, July/August 2006

SO NOTED.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (OLMSTED), SECONDED (SHERMAN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Reanna Goodreau
Recording Secretary